



Department of Justice

**United States Attorney Joseph H. Hogsett
Southern District of Indiana**

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CONTACT: TIM HORTY

(317) 229-2409

tim.horty@usdoj.gov

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY ANNOUNCES CHARGES AGAINST LOCAL WOMAN FOR EMBEZZLEMENT

Joe Hogsett says former church bookkeeper stole nearly \$200,000 from area church

PRESS RELEASE

MUNCIE – Joseph H. Hogsett, the United States Attorney, announced today the filing of wire fraud charges against a Delaware County resident who is alleged to have stolen nearly \$200,000 from a Muncie church. The defendant, Angela Linder, age 42, now faces up to twenty years in federal prison.

“When Hoosiers steal from Hoosiers, we all suffer,” said Hogsett. “We all must do our part to combat this culture of corruption – it weakens our economy, and harms our sense of community. That is why the U.S. Attorney’s Office has in the last year redoubled efforts to hold accountable those who put greed and selfishness ahead of the interests of their employers and our state.”

According to charging documents filed in federal court, Linder was an accounting administrator with the local church from February 2001 through May 17, 2010. During that period of time, she was charged with handling payroll, tax return preparation, and other administrative duties. She also allegedly handled church credit card accounts, including the payment of monthly balances.

In court documents, it is alleged that beginning in 2003, Linder engaged in a scheme to defraud the church in a variety of ways. This included fraudulent credit card purchases, the writing of fraudulent checks on church accounts, the payment of inflated wages to Linder from church accounts, and the abuse of a charitable fund setup for victims of a fire.

The charging documents allege that the money was used to pay for meals, vacations, clothing, home improvement projects, medical expenses and dozens of other personal purchases.

Hogsett said that Linder has filed a motion in federal court requesting that a judge allow her to enter a plea of guilty to these charges. If accepted, a sentencing hearing will likely be scheduled sometime in the next 60 days.

This prosecution comes as Hogsett has made it a priority of the U.S. Attorney's Office to aggressively combat corruption and fraud in central and southern Indiana. The case was the result of a collaborative investigation along with the United States Secret Service and the Indiana State Police.

An Information is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. All defendants are presumed innocent and are entitled to a fair trial at which the government must prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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